

spirits find the house dark, they spit down the chimney and depart, cursing the churlish inmates.¹

Early in April every year the Dahomans of West Africa ^{cc} set a table, as they term it, and invite friends to eat with the deceased relatives, whose spirits are supposed to move round and partake of the good things of this life. Even my interpreter, Madi-Ki Lemon, who pretends to despise the belief In fetish, sets a table to his ancestors, and will tell you that his grand- or great-grandfather, Corporal Lemon, makes a meal on this occasion which will last him till the next annual feast.^{" 2} The Barea and apparently the Kunama, two heathen tribes who lead a settled agricultural life to the north of Abyssinia, celebrate every year a festival in the month of November. It is a festival of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest, and at the same time a commemoration and propitiation of the dead. Every house prepares much beer for the occasion, and a small pot of beer is set out for each deceased member of the household. After standing for two days In the house the beer which was devoted to the dead Is drunk by the living. At these festivals all the people of a district meet in a special place, and there pass the time In games and dances. Among the Barea the festive gatherings are held In a sacred grove. We are told that " he who owes another a drubbing on this day can pay his debt with impunity ; for It Is a day of peace when all feuds are in abeyance." Wild honey may not be gathered till the festival has been held.³ Apparently the festival Is a sort of Saturnalia, such as is celebrated

elsewhere at the end of harvest.⁴ At that season there is food and to spare for the dead as well as the living.

¹ M. Abeghian, *Der armenische* towards the end of August. The offerings are presented to the departed at

^{§<?} their graves. See A. B. Ellis, *The*

² Fred. E. Forbes, *Dahomey and the Tshi-speaking Peoples of the Gold Coast* (London, 1851), ii. 73. (London, 1887), pp.

227 sq.¹ E. Perre-

Compare John Duncan, *Travels in gaux, Chez les Achanti* (Neuchatel, Western Africa (London, 1847), i. 1908), pp. 136, 138. According to 125[^]; A. B. Ellis, *The Eke-speaking peoples of the Slave Coast* (London, 1890), p. 108. The Tshi-speaking

peoples of the Gold Coast and Ashantee celebrate an annual festival of eight days in honour of the dead. It falls

celebrate an annual festival of eight !>^{tudien} (Schaffhausen, 1864), p. 73-⁴ days in honour of the dead. It falls

⁴ *The Scapegoat*, pp.

136 sq.